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## I. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION AND DECISIONS CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

At its second regular session of 1991, held at Geneva from 3 to 25 July 1991, the Economic and Social Council adopted, on 26 July 1991, the following resolution and decisions relating to the question of Palestine.

"1991/69. Assistance to the Palestinian people

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"Assistance to the Palestinian people

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 45/183 of 21 December 1990,

"Taking into account the intifadah of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory against the Israeli occupation, including Israeli economic and social policies and practices,

"Rejecting Israeli restrictions on external economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory,

"Concerned about the economic losses of the Palestinian people as a result of the Gulf crisis,

"Aware of the increasing need to provide economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people,

"Affirming that the Palestinian people cannot develop their national economy as long as the Israeli occupation persists,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people; 1/

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1/ A/46/204-E/1991/80 and Add.1.

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"2. Expresses its appreciation to the States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have provided assistance to the Palestinian people;

"3. Requests the international community, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to sustain and increase their assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, taking into account the economic losses of the Palestinian people as a result of the Gulf crisis;

"4. Calls for treatment on a transit basis of Palestinian exports and imports passing through neighbouring ports and points of exit and entry;

"5. Also calls for the granting of trade concessions and concrete preferential measures for Palestinian exports on the basis of Palestinian certificates of origin;

"6. Further calls for the immediate lifting of Israeli restrictions and obstacles hindering the implementation of assistance projects by the United Nations Development Programme, other United Nations bodies and others providing economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory;

"7. Reiterates its call for the implementation of development projects in the occupied Palestinian territory, including the projects mentioned in its resolution 39/223 of 18 December 1984;

"8. Calls for facilitation of the establishment of Palestinian development banks in the occupied Palestinian territory, with a view to promoting investment, production, employment and income therein;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

"1991/279. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

"At its 31st plenary meeting, on 26 July 1991, the Economic and Social Council, after considering the draft resolution entitled "Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory, the Syrian Golan and the other occupied Arab territories" 1/ and in view of the special importance of the subject and constraints of time, decided to refer the draft resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session for consideration."

"1991/280. Report of the Secretary-General on Israeli land and water policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

"At its 31st plenary meeting, on 26 July 1991, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on Israeli land and water policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories." 2/

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1/ E/1991/L.36.
2/ A/46/263-E/1991/88.

## II. JAPAN GRANTS THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA) $7.2 MILLION FOR PURCHASE OF FLOUR FOR DISTRIBUTION BY UNRWA TO PALESTINE REFUGEES

The following press release was issued by UNRWA on 11 July 1991:

"The Government of Japan has donated 1,000 million yen (about $7.2 million) to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for the purchase of flour for distribution by UNRWA to Palestine refugees.

"Tetsuya Endo, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations in Vienna, and UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen exchanged letters outlining the agreement at UNRWA headquarters here today.

"The grant will cover the purchase of approximately 29,000 tons of flour and the cost of shipping it to UNRWA's area of operations. The flour will be distributed to some 36,400 Palestine refugee families (about 156,400 persons) registered with UNRWA as special hardship cases in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Israeli-occupied territory of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Japan is one of the biggest single donors to UNRWA's regular and emergency programmes. In 1990, the Japanese Government contributed $15 million to the Agency's regular budget for education, health, relief and social programmes for Palestine refugees. In March, Japan contributed $10 million to the Agency's emergency programme of assistance in the Israeli-occupied territory - the largest single donation to UNRWA's emergency programme in 1991."
(See PAL/1766)

## III. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY ADOPTS TWO RESOLUTIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE

At its fifty-fourth ordinary session held at Abuja, Nigeria, from 27 May to 1 June 1991, the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity adopted the following resolutions regarding the Middle East and Palestine:

"Resolution on the situation in the Middle East

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the situation in the Middle East, as contained in document CM/1664 (LIV),

"Guided by the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charters of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations and the common determination of the African and the Arab peoples to pull their resources in defence of their independence and restoration of their legitimate basic rights,

"Noting with grave concern that the connivance between the Zionist regime in Israel and the apartheid system in South Africa aims at spreading international terrorism against the Palestinians in occupied Arab lands and the majority of the population in South Africa and their suppression,

"Recalling that the Palestinian question is the main cause of the conflict in the Middle East,

"Reaffirming that the violation by Israel of the sanctity of the Arab lands, air space and territorial waters, constitutes a threat to international peace and security,

"Considering the efforts made to establish peace in Lebanon within the context of the Taif Agreement:

"1. Recalls all the resolutions previously adopted by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers, and expresses its full

support for the Palestinian people and to the Arab Countries which are victims of Israeli aggression;

"2. Further reaffirms the common struggle of the African and Arab peoples and the urgent need to promote Afro-Arab solidarity;

"3. Strongly condemns the Israeli refusal to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 for the Protection of Civilians in times of War;

"4. Strongly condemns also the settlement of Jews in the occupied Arab territories and the expulsion of Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank;

"5. Demands the withdrawal of Israelis from all the occupied Arab territories, and considers null and void all measures taken by Israel in these territories aimed at changing their original characteristics and exploiting their resources;

"6. Demands the early convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people on an equal footing, and supports efforts deployed in this regard;

"7. Expresses satisfaction at the process of national reconciliation and peace in Lebanon and its hope in reconstruction;

"8. Demands the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon in conformity with resolution 425 (1978) of the United Nations Security Council;

"9. Calls upon all States, international organizations and investment institutions to abstain from lending any support to Israel for its acts in these territories and from maintaining any cooperation relations with that country likely to enable it to exploit the resources of these territories, and demands that Israel put an end to its acts of violation;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to follow the development of the situation in the Middle East and report to the next ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers." (See A/46/390)

"Resolution on the question of Palestine

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the question of Palestine as contained in document CM/1665 (LIV),

"Recalling the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the previous sessions of the Council of Ministers on the question of Palestine,

"Further recalling all resolutions of the United Nations and the Non-aligned Movement on the question of Palestine,

"Reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), their sole and legitimate representative, so that they may recover their territories and exercise their full national rights,

"Following with attention the Palestinian popular uprising "Intifada" in the occupied territories in order to put an end to the Israeli occupation and attain the inalienable national rights for the Palestinian people, including their right to return to their homeland, self-determination and the establishment of their independent State with Jerusalem as its Capital,

"Noting with deep concern the acts of systematic state terrorism practised by Israel against the Palestinian people and their leadership,

"1. Recalls all the previous resolutions and recommendations adopted by various sessions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on the question of Palestine;

"2. Strongly condemns the continued inhuman acts perpetrated by Israel against the citizens of the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories such as mass deportation and detention, slaughter of women and

children, destruction of homes, confiscation of lands and property and the desecration of holy places, and exhorts the international community to intervene in order to put an end to these inhuman acts which constitute a flagrant violation of human rights in Palestine;

"3. Strongly condemns the expansionist settlement policies pursued by Israel in occupied Palestine, including Jerusalem, and settlement of immigrant Jews in the occupied Arab territories, and calls upon the Soviet Union and the United States of America, in accordance with their declared position, to take the necessary actions to stop the settlement of migrant Jews in the Palestinian and Arab occupied territories;

"4. Hails the resistance of the Palestinian people to Israeli occupation, the intensification of the Palestinian people's uprising in the face of the brutal repression perpetrated by the Israeli authorities as well as the sacrifices made by the Palestinian people under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, in order to recover their inalienable rights to return to their homeland, to recover their property in Palestine, to self-determination without outside interference, and the establishment of their independent and sovereign State with Jerusalem as capital;

"5. Demands that Israel withdraw immediately and unconditionally from all the occupied Palestinian territories;

"6. Calls on the United Nations to secure international protection for the Palestinian population and to take all the necessary measures to put an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with Security Council resolution 681 (1990), to invite all States party to the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention to hold a conference aimed at providing protection for the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation and ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the part of the Israeli occupying forces in Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem and other occupied Arab territories;

"8. Demands the early convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly with the participation of permanent members of the Security Council and all the parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in the said Conference on an equal footing, and supports efforts being deployed in this regard;

"9. Calls on the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to follow up the developments of the Palestinian question and submit a report thereon to the forthcoming session of the OAU Council of Ministers." (See A/46/390)

## IV. EXCERPT FROM JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH-EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN), HELD AT KUALA LUMPUR ON 20 JULY 1991

"The Foreign Ministers reviewed the situation in the Middle East in the post-Gulf War period. They welcomed the restoration of the legitimate Government of Kuwait and reaffirmed their commitment to the sovereignty, unity and independence and territorial integrity of all countries in the region.

"The Foreign Ministers emphasized that the immediate post-war period was an opportune moment to address the fundamental causes of instability within the region, in particular the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question. They took note of the efforts of the United States in promoting peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question. They reaffirmed their support for the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to work out a peace settlement. In this connection, they stressed the need to adhere to Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), which would uphold the right to security of all States in the region, including that of Israel, and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination with all that this implied, in particular, their right to a homeland.

"The Foreign Ministers deplored the continuing establishment of illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied territories in defiance of Security Council resolutions."
(See A/46/323-S/22836, paras. 29-31)

## V. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

In the course of July, the following information was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. ICCP Newsletter No. 36, available from: the International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, 150 Route de Ferney, Case postale 2100, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland.

2. Oriente Medio, available from: la Asociación "Amigos de Palestina", Apdo. No. 2102/37080, Salamanca, Spain.

3. Middle East Children's Alliance, news bulletin, available from: 2140 Shattuck Ave., Suite 207, Berkeley, CA 94704, United States of America.

4. The Other Front, available from: the Alternative Information Center, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

5. Israel and Palestine Political Report, available from: Magelan Boite Postale 130, 75463 Paris Cedex 10, France.

6. Inchiesta, quarterly publication submitted by: Visitare Luoghi Difficili, Casa delle Donne, via Vanchigli 3, Torino, Italy.

7. Connections, newsletter of the North American Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, available from: 1747 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009, United States of America.

8. NECEF Report, publication of Near East Cultural and Educational Foundation of Canada, available from: 106, Duplex Avenue, Toronto, Canada M5P 2A7.

9. Israel and the Occupied Territories, publication of Amnesty International, available from: International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom.

10. New Zealand/Aoteanoa Palestine Review, available from: P.O. Box 29-168, Christchurch, New Zealand.

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